

I would like to express my disapproval at requiring copy protection of a HD broadcast when the "broadcast flag" is set. Historically, in the computer world, copy protection has proven to be ineffective at limiting copies of content. In many cases, people who legitimately owned software ended up with problems as a result of the copy protection.

In the TV broadcast industry, the broadcasters in the past and present have shown little concern for the viewers and would preempt schedule programming for "special events" such as sports, news, religious programming, etc. While news of critical importance is understandable, preempting for other content isn't. This season, I personally have missed two episodes of Star Trek Enterprise due to UPN changing the name of the program from Enterprise to Star Trek Enterprise, TIVO trying to correct the name twice in their database and the second showing each time was delayed due to local sports. The effect is that out of the five episodes shown so far this season, I've missed two.

I personally have to record nearly every TV program I watch or I would not be able to see it due to work. Every time they preempt or delay a program, I miss the program. Most, if not all, recorders available on the market are not able to adjust to delayed programming. When content is not shown at it's scheduled time, the major broadcasters have rarely rescheduled the programming or make allowances for viewers to obtain the missed program so many people rely on friends making copies of the program so they can view it.

It is doubtful that the broadcasters would make allowances for this, even if copy protection were required. Since much of they make is from advertising, there is little motivation to accommodate the viewers in this. This would force the viewers to apply patches or hacks to their recording equipment to kill the copy protection, thus making the whole requirement ineffective. Computers converted to personal video recorders would most likely ignore the broadcast flag anyway.